

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives are delighted to honor an outstanding Missourian who has witnessed dramatic changes in America during her sojourn on this most precious earth; and

Whereas, Cleta Mae Van Tress of Canton, Missouri, will commemorate the resplendent occasion of her Ninetieth Birthday with a special celebration on December 14, 2003, at Wyaconda Baptist Church, where she is a devout member; and

Whereas, on December 15, 1913, in Canton, God brought a special gift to Roy O. and Ora (Kator) Bertram with the birth of an adorable infant by the name of Cleta, who would put a twinkle in their eyes and fill their hearts with love and joy; and

Whereas, while celebrating her birthday, Cleta Mae Van Tress will have the opportunity to reminisce about some of the significant events in her life, such as graduating from Culver Stockton College twenty-two years after she began in 1931, marrying Russell Van Tress (deceased), and giving birth to their only child; and

Whereas, God has blessed Cleta Mae Van Tress with the love and affection of a wonderful family whose members include one daughter, Lynda L. Bradshaw; two grandchildren, Lori Howard and Lana Lovell; and two great-grandchildren, Heather Lovell and Troy Howard; and

Whereas, a retired elementary school teacher, Cleta Mae Van Tress began her teaching career in a one-room school at Sunnyside in 1932 and continued to teach at Benjamin and Canton Public Schools until her retirement thirty-three years later; and

Whereas, Cleta Mae Van Tress has also enjoyed recognition by sharing her experiences and exciting stories of times past, working in her flower garden, and supporting the Daughters of the American Revolution, Business and Professional Women, Riverview FCE, the Benjamin Social Club, the Bunker Hill Farm Club, and Delta Kappa Gamma:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations and special birthday greetings to Cleta Mae Van Tress at this significant milestone and in wishing her peace and contentment as she continues to enjoy her golden years; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Missouri nonagenarian Cleta Mae Van Tress, as a measure of our esteem for her.

Offered by _____
Representative Brian Munzlinger
District No. 1

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No.4749, adopted December 2, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker